



IMPERIAL PALACE, PETERHOF.

children, fortune and good name, before he died. His widow sent it to the British Museum, where, as it was in a splendid state of preservation and the case a magnificent specimen of old Egyptian art, it was gladly accepted. But the carrier who transported it to the museum died within a week, and a similar fate overtook a well known Baker-st. photographer who had made a picture of it before its transfer for the purpose of being submitted to the museum authorities. Since the arrival of the mummy and mummy case at the museum no further misfortunes are known to have occurred in connection with the remains of this Theban priestess, who lived and flourished some seventeen hundred years before the Christian era. Perhaps she is more satisfied with her present environment, surrounded as she is with the mummies of Pharaohs, of princesses and high priests, than when used as a dining room ornament.

Scoff as one may at the idea of an inanimate object, such as a mummy nearly three thousand years old, being able to exercise any influence either for good or for evil, the belief in the existence of powers of this kind will persist, despite reasoning and logic, especially when it is borne in mind that the instance above stated is by no means unique. Thus there is the case of Walter Ingram, younger brother of Sir William Ingram, the proprietor of "The Illustrated London News." While spending a few weeks at Luxor he purchased a particularly fine mummy that had been found during the course of excavations carried on in his presence at Thebes. He carried it back with him to England, and sent it to the British Museum for the purpose of having it unrolled and examined. When this was done papyri were found showing that the mummy was that of one of the high priests of ancient Thebes, and containing a blood curdling curse upon whomsoever should disturb the remains, the malediction appealing to the powers above to deny burial to the remains of the sacrilegious ghoul who should interfere with the

eternal sleep of the prelate, entreating that not one bone should remain with another, but that they should be swept to the sea, so as to render the reconstitution of the body impossible.

Walter Ingram made fun of the curse at the time. But he probably thought of it more seriously when a year later he was being trampled to death in East Africa by an infuriated elephant which he had only wounded instead of killing. His corpse was buried near the scene of his death, in what seemed to be a sort of stony valley. But when some months afterward a properly equipped expedition was sent by Sir William Ingram from the coast to bring home his brother's remains, not a vestige of them could be found save a single bone and a few buttons of his garments scattered among the stones near the place where the body had been buried. The fact was that the valley was nothing more nor less than the bed of a river, dry during the hot season, but a raging torrent during the rainy months. Thus had the curse of the Egyptian high priest been accomplished; for the bones of poor Walter Ingram must lie strewn along the bed of that river to this day, if they have not been, as it is firmly believed by many, carried out to sea by the mighty rush of the waters.

A West African juju is believed by many of the relatives and friends of the late President Sadi Carnot of France to have exercised an influence upon his destiny quite as fatal as that of the mummified high priest upon the lot of Walter Ingram. These jujus are wooden or stone monstrosities, which are believed by the natives all along the west coast of Africa and far away into the interior of the Dark Continent to be possessed of supernatural powers of evil. Even white people who have lived on the west coast are unable to divest themselves of a certain ill defined, uncanny feeling with regard to these hideous idols, and have hair raising and blood curdling stories to tell of the mysterious maleficence with which they seem to be endowed, insisting that, whereas they may be destroyed with impunity, any white person who carries them off, retains possession thereof or merely mutilates them will surely be overtaken by disaster.

The traveller and explorer Le Bon ridiculed these tales, and on returning to France took along with him a particularly hideous wooden juju as a souvenir of his wanderings for his friend President Carnot. The latter set it up in his workroom at the Elysée Palace, and two months afterward was assassinated by Cesario at Lyons. His widow, the late Mme. Carnot, was one of the most learned, level headed and sensible women that I have ever known, the last woman in the world, in fact, whom one would have imagined capable of accorded any attention to superstitions concerning inanimate objects. Yet so imbued did she become with the conviction that the possession of this African juju had in some way contributed to the tragic death of her husband that she insisted on its being destroyed a considerable time before her own death.

Stories such as the one told of President Carnot's juju have their counterpart at almost every court of Europe. Thus the widowed Empress of Russia, when toward the close of 1897 she was looking through the drawers of a desk that had only occasionally been used by her husband, happened to find a peculiar looking ring, consisting of a heavy band of gold, in the centre of which was set an extraordinarily beautiful opal, flanked by two diamonds of the finest water. It was contained in an envelope on which Alexander III had written that the ring was one which had been worn by his father on the little finger of his left hand. When that unfortunate sovereign was blown to pieces by the nitroglycerine bombs of the Nihilists in 1881 his entire left hand was shattered with the ex-

ception of the little finger, which remained intact with this ring on it, the rings worn on the third finger being completely destroyed. Alexander III took it from his father's torn and mangled hand, placed it in the envelope and hid it away in the drawer, where it was found by his widow after his death.

Empress Marie, not thinking that there was any ill luck attached to the ring, took it with her to Copenhagen on the occasion of her next visit to Denmark in the spring of 1838, and left it there in charge of her mother, who died the same year. Finding it among the effects of the dead Queen of Denmark, the Empress took it back with her to Russia and presented it to her second son, George, whose sudden death a short time afterward, quite alone by a roadside near Tiflis, in the Caucasus, created such a sensation. Curiously enough this ring has disappeared since that time, and was not found among the Grand Duke's belongings after his death.

Another opal ring has played an analogous role in the history of the reigning house of Spain. It was given by the late King Alfonso XII to his cousin Mercedes, when he was betrothed to her. She wore it throughout her short married life as Queen. On her death he removed it from her finger and presented it to his grandmother, old Queen Christina, who died shortly afterward. Then it passed to the King's favorite sister, the Infanta Pilar, who at once began to sicken and in a few days breathed her last. Alfonso thereupon handed it to his sister-in-law, the beautiful Infanta Christina, younger daughter of the late Duke of Montpensier, and a sister of the Countess of Paris. In three months she too was dead. The King now resolved to retain the baneful jewel in his own possession. But he also soon fell a victim to its mysterious malignancy, and died with almost tragic suddenness after only a few hours' sickness, at his shooting lodge near Madrid, in 1885. His widow, Queen Christina, determined to place the ring beyond the power of doing any more harm, accordingly had it hung to the neck of the statue of the Virgin of Almudena, the patron saint of Madrid, in the grand old Church of the Atocha.

Empress Eugénie, superstitious, like most Spaniards, both of high and low degree, manifested throughout her husband's reign a dread of opals, and was persuaded only with difficulty by the Emperor to wear a superb opal parure with which he had presented her on Easter Day in 1870, as her "œuf de Paques." She most reluctantly donned it at a grand fête given in the month of June at the Palace of St. Cloud, and it proved the last entertainment over which she ever had occasion to preside as Empress of the French, for immediately afterward the war with Germany broke out which swept the throne of Napoleon II out of existence and drove the house of Bonaparte into exile.

Many more stories of the same character could be told, but those just noted, while they may fail to convince, will, at any rate, serve to account for the existence of the superstition attaching to the mysterious and apparently supernatural property pertaining to certain inanimate articles, and I may add, so widespread is the belief, even in this country, that books printed here dealing with the cult of occultism, which has so many followers in the United States, actually insist that evil is derived from the consumption of those onions and other agricultural products which are manured with powdered Egyptian mummies.

EX-ATTACHE.

THE WAY IT HAPPENED.

She—Archibald was always trying to avoid the girls. Where did he meet the one he afterward married?
He—He didn't meet her. She overtook him— (Smart Set.)



WINTER PALACE, R OFFICE ARCH.



HERMITAGE ART GALLERY, ST. PETERSBURG.

ous sights. broken rim. century have complete in ns of every of Genghis atedral of g the con- and erected Byzantine architect- er Moscow commemo- army and nlin is the are, modern is the Pe- made his held the de- citizens. f more ter- the site of at the walls uerors fre- the city. forum, and hand ex- the Poles was deliv- ders of the rs after the atched the from vari- From this out on the thousands y of nearly European, y, as in the

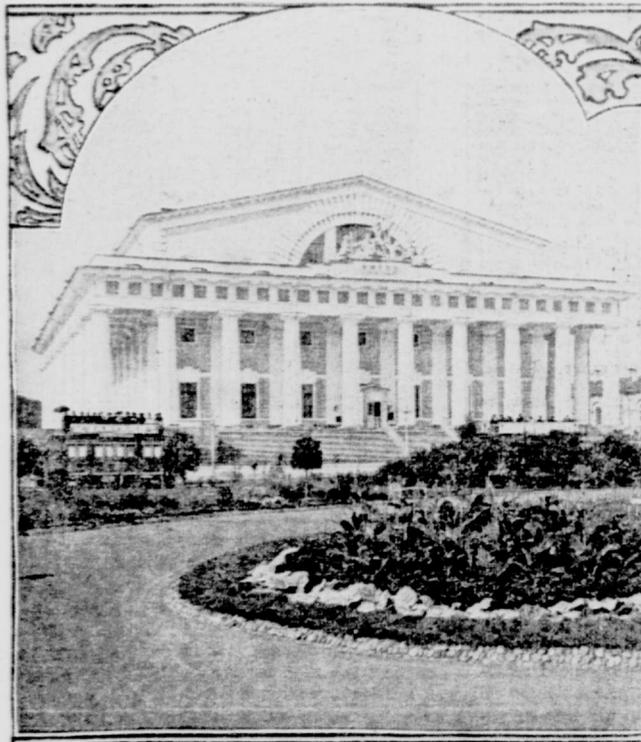
days of the Great Peter, of the anti-progressive spirit of the empire. Moscow in all its phases of life, in its architecture, its religion and its spirit, even in its loyalty, belongs to the past. Busy and bustling as it is commercially, far exceeding St. Petersburg in commercial importance as in sentimental appeal to the traveller, Moscow still gives evidence of the readiness to greet a twentieth century invader with the same fiery reception that welcomed Napoleon. Happily, there seems little likelihood that the Japanese will repeat the famous march to Moscow.

POWERS OF EVIL.

Inanimate Objects That Apparently Possess Maleficent Influence.

London newspapers have recently been calling attention to the uncanny history of the mummy of the priestess of the College of Amen Ra, which, figuring as No. 22,542 in the catalogue of the British Museum, is preserved in the first Egyptian room of that world famed institution. Found at Thebes during explorations there carried on in 1869 in the presence of the late Lady Duff Gordon and some friends, and acquired by them, its possession seems to have brought misfortune on every one of the party.

Lady Duff Gordon died very suddenly at Cairo almost immediately after her return down the river. Another member of the party had his gun explode, injuring his arm in such a manner as to necessitate amputation; a third committed suicide, a fourth found on his arrival at Cairo that his bankers had failed, and that he was a ruined man, while the man who conveyed the mummy to England with him was overtaken by a succession of misfortunes, including loss of



STOCK EXCHANGE, ST. PETERSBURG.



STATUE ON FONTANKA BRIDGE, ST. PETERSBURG.